

1. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 2 wherein said at least one contact element is formed on at least one two-dimensional carrier wherein the carrier has at least two regions that are movable relative to one another,

5 said microcontact structure having a spatial extent wherein said spatial extent is minimized during surgical transportation to an implant point by compacting the regions that are movable relative to one another.

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2. (Twice Amended) An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes
10 of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation,
15 during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention.

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4. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 further comprising a minimizing means selected from the group consisting of folding, nesting and rolling wherein the spatial extent of the microcontact structure is capable of being
20 minimized during the surgical transportation to the implant point.

5. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 further comprising a releasing means wherein said compacting can be released by said releasing means after the surgical transportation.

5 7. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 6 further comprising at least one junction area between contiguous regions and a lock releasing means, said lock releasing means permitting releasing forces at said at least one junction to thereby open the microcontact structure out of the compact state.

10 9. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 2 wherein the shape modifying means is utilized to attain a mechanical anchorage and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of the external action.

15 10. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 2 wherein said shape modifying means is utilized to optimize an electrical contact or an active connection with the nerve tissue and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of an external action.

20 11. (Twice Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 9 wherein said shape modifying means comprises a surgical device or transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.